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DOCKET NO.: OPTP101USB

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Applicant: John Merrow Davies, *et al.*  
Serial No.: 09/998,613  
Filed: November 30, 2001  
For: VIRTUAL PRIVATE SUPPLY CHAIN  
Art Unit: 2162  
Examiner: Shahid Al Alam

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed except for: (a) pending applications; (b) those previously cited or submitted to the Office in the following application(s) upon which this application relies for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120; and/or (c) U.S. Patent(s) and published applications(s).

Serial No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regarding any document, publication or other information for which a date is not given on the attached PTO-1449, Applicant(s) believe(s) the same may qualify as "prior" art to this application and should be treated accordingly, although Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to contest the prior art status of any document, publication or information, should issue arise.

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth in the following document(s):

- (a) ☐ Copy of each English language version of a search report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office of each document being submitted from the search report.
- (b) ☐ Attachment entitled "Concise Explanation of Relevance of Non-English Language Documents".

3. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) ☐ Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- (b) ☐ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. If this Statement is not filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, the required certification is given below or, in the absence thereof, the Office is authorized to charge the required fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 for consideration of this Statement.
- (c) ☐ Before the mailing date of an Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 1.114.

- (d) ☐ After the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance.
- (1) ☐ The required certification is given below, or
- (2) ☐ Regarding the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement :
- (i) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee;
- (ii) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-1063; or
- (iii) ☐ Enclosed is a credit card payment form covering the fee.
- (e) ☒ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
- (1) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee;
- (2) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 50-1063; or
- (3) ☐ Enclosed is a credit card payment form covering the fee.


## 4. Certification (if applicable)

- (a) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.
- (b) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully Submitted,

By

  
 Himanshu S. Amin  
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 571-273-8300 on the date shown below to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date

2/8/06

  
 Himanshu S. Amin

FEB 08 2006

PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

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**SUPPLEMENTAL  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	09/998,613
Filing Date	November 30, 2001
First Named Inventor	John Merrow Davies, et al.
Art Unit	2162
Examiner Name	Shahid Al Alam
Attorney Docket Number	OPTPT01USB

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US- 2002/0138358 A1	09-26-2002	Scheer, Robert H.	
		US- 2002/0138316 A1	09-26-2002	Katz et al.	
		US- 6,119,149	09-12-2000	Notani, Ranjit N.	
		US- 5,854,300	03-16-1999	Brockman, Richard	
		US- 5,946,662	08-31-1999	Eul et al.	
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number Kind Code <sup>4</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>5</sup>

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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